

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

A Tribute to Our Veterans



November is a time to reflect on the sacrifice our Veterans have made to protect our freedom and uphold the values of an ever-unfolding American dream.

This November I am also reflecting on the hard work our local Veterans Service Officers do. Our VSOs didn't shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic - they continued to work tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable populations of veterans, families, widows and Gold Star Families were able to access essential benefits and services.

Maynard's VSO is Wayne Stanley and he is available Tuesdays evenings from 6-8 pm at 978-897-1361 and wstanley@townofmaynard.net. Wayne can assist with any of the benefits listed below, as well as other services available to Veterans such as assistance with VA compensation claims, Veterans job programs, RMV benefits, tax exemptions for disabled veterans, and other programs.

State Benefits Available to Veterans

Chapter 115, General Financial Assistance

- The Commonwealth provides a program of financial and medical assistance for qualifying Veterans and their dependents, including assistance for daily living expenses, medical costs, rent assistance, support of dependents and prevention of veteran homelessness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Veterans' Services has directed Veteran Service Officers to relax the application process and lessen the veterans burden in order to expedite the approval process. To apply visit www.mass.gov/veterans or contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

Burial Benefits

- Any Veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions and was a Massachusetts resident prior to or following military service is eligible for burial, free of cost, at one of the two State Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries in Agawam and Winchendon. Spouses of Veterans and qualified dependents are also eligible for burial at a nominal fee. For more information contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment (SAVE)

- The SAVE program advocates for veterans who are not able to obtain the benefits they have earned due to institutional or personal barriers. The program's primary mission is prevention of suicide and mental health distress through the identification of issues facing veterans when they return from service and proactively providing them with access to benefits and services that may address these issues and result in positive transitions back to civilian life.

Information about state and federal resources is available on the official website of the Department of Veteran's Services, **Mass.gov/veterans**. In addition, MassVetsAdvisor is an easy-to-use online resource created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that combines state and federal benefits, as well as non-profit resources, into one tailored online search to give Veterans and their families access to one-stop shopping for all of their needs. Visit **MassVetsAdvisor.org** to learn more.

Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

Contact Rep. Hogan:

State House, Room 370, Boston, MA, 02133 / Phone: (617) 722-2600 / Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov

November 2021

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

District Office: Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754 / Phone: (978) 897-1333

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RepKateHogan